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Letter dated 9 January 1991 from the Permanent Representative of
Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the Israeli Government has resumed its policy of forcibly expelling and illegally transporting Palestinians to Lebanon across the international frontier, particularly through the so-called "security zone" which it continues to maintain inside Lebanese territory.

On 8 January 1991, the Israeli authorities deported four Palestinian civilians by military helicopter from the occupied Palestinian territories to the outskirts of the town of Marjayoun, from where they were subsequently sent to the Lebanese Army centre in the western Bekaa.

The Palestinians expelled are Sheikh Mustafha Knuah (aged 45), Imad El-Alami (aged 34), Fadel Zaabout (aged 36) and Mustafha Al-Lidani (aged 25). All come from the occupied Gaza Strip.

The Lebanese Government, which has in the past frequently and repeatedly condemned Israel's policy of expelling and deporting Palestinians, in contravention of article 49 of the fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the forcible deportation of civilians from their occupied territory regardless of the motive, reiterates its vigorous condemnation of and protest against Israel's repressive policy, which heightens the tension prevailing in the region as a whole and displays disgraceful contempt for the sovereignty of the Lebanese State and its territorial integrity, besides violating the Charter of the United Nations, human rights law, international conventions and the pertinent resolutions of the Security Council: 607 (1988); 608 (1988); 636 (1989); and 641 (1989).